The Government is extending full cooperation to the Commission so as to facilitate and expedite the inquiry.

Attacks on Minoritites

†*54. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Miniter of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been serious attacks on minoritites, especially the Christians, in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of attacks on churches;

(d) the action being taken by Government in this regard; and?

(e) the number of persons arrested in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There have been 3 noteworthy incidents of attacks on members of the minority community, particularly Christians during the last 2 years which are as under:—

(i) Murder of Mr. Graham Stewart Staines, an Austrailan Christain Missionary on 22/23 Janaury 1999 in District—Keonjhar (Orissa).

(ii) Murder of Father Arul Doss on 1/2 September, 1999 (night) in Village Jamubani in Mayurbhanj District (Orissa).

(iii) Alleged attack/molestation of Sister Ruby, a Tamil Christian Missionary, who was working as a Health Awareness worker at Village-Jalalpur, near Chapra town (Bihar) on 20.9.99

(c) and (d) As per available information, the following are the State-wise details of attacks on Churches upto 31st October 1999.

Name of State/UT	1998 Attacks on Churches	1999 (Upto 31.10.99) Attacks on Churches
1. Bihar	1	—
2. Gujarat	25	15
3. Haryana	—	1

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Name of State/UT	1998 Attacks on Churches	1999 (Upto 31.10.99) Attacks on Churches
4. Karnataka	1	—
5. Kerala	3	5
6. Madhya Pradesh	1	1
7. Maharashtra	7	—
8. Orissa	2	2
9. Tamil Nadu	1	7
Total	41	31

The following measures are being taken by the Government to check communal tension:

(i) Sharing intelligence with the State Governments to enable them to take premptive measures.

(ii) Advisories and Guidelines sent to the State Govts./UTs from time to time.

(iii) Assisting the State Govts. by providing the Central Para-Millitary Force. etc. (The Central Govt. has also constituted a Special Force, viz. Rapid Action Force, for controlling communal riots and tensions).

(iv) Assistance is being provided to the State Govts. in upgrading their policing infrastructure.

(e) 89 persons have been arrested in this regard during this period.

National Commission for Minorities

*55. SHRI GURDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Miniter of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current term of the national Commission for Minorities is due to end by the end of November, 1999; and